

THE JJC CONNECTOR

The Clark County Juvenile Justice Center Newsletter – Winter 2012, Volume 3, Issue 1

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The JJC Connector
Clark County Juvenile Court
500 West 11th Street
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000
360-397-2201

Log onto the JJC Connector:
<http://www.clark.wa.gov/juvenile/index.html>

JJC Safety Committee Welcomes New Members



Tim Oberheide, Safety Coordinator

Tim Oberheide has been the Safety Coordinator since 1996.

The Safety Committee rotates members each year to ensure that most of the staff is familiar with the safety procedures, location of safety equipment, etc. in the event of an emergency. Patty Koitzch volunteered to serve on the committee for another year. Bill Blue, Jackie Hull and Carol Murch are new members.

Klineline Kids' Fishing Event Receives 2011 Spirit of Clark County Award



On February 2, 2012, Clark County awarded the Klineline Kids Fishing Event the Spirit of Clark County award in the project category at the State of Clark County event held at Washougal High School. The award recognizes people, groups and events that enhance and embody the spirit of the wonderful community in which we live.

The Klineline Fishing Event is held in the spring of each year. It focuses on raising youth interest in fishing and environmental conservation. Youth ages 5-14 participate in the event. They receive a fishing pole and gear and are able to fish for trout that are stocked in Klineline pond, located just north of downtown Vancouver. Over 1200 local youth participated in the event held last year and even more are expected to participate this year.

The Klineline Kids Fishing event has taken place for roughly 30 years and has many community partners that support it. The Salmon Creek Lions Club, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clark County Juvenile Court, local trade unions, various non-profit fishing groups, and many private

donors and volunteers help make the event a success each year.

Youth are able to make amends and give back to their community at this event by performing restorative community service (RCS). The youth who choose to perform their RCS hours at this event are involved in many different duties. The work ranges from helping with parking, weighing and measuring fish, face painting and button making, and working at the registration table. Youth involved with helping have always had a great time over the many years that Clark County Juvenile has partnered with this outstanding event. This year the fishing event will take place on April 12th, 13th, and 14th.

If you are interested in choosing this site for your community service project, please ask your probation counselor for more information or contact the RCS office at 360-397-2201 ext. 4057.

Current Psychology Interns

Each year Dr. Shirley Shen and Dr. Christine Krause welcome a new group of psychology student interns to the Clark County Juvenile Justice Center. The students provide a variety of services to our department, and gain excellent real life experience to add to their education.

Laura Wheaton is in her third year at Pacific University, School of Professional Psychology. She has always loved working with kids, and began babysitting at a young age. As she continued to babysit and nanny, she realized how much she enjoyed the complexity of working with families. She also realized how



Psychology interns (from left to right): Laura Wheaton, Joscelyn Wilson, Tashina Keith, and Jodi Gann.

important it was for children to be able to develop healthy, positive relationships with adults. When she was about 16 she decided she wanted to be a psychologist, and she's been working toward that goal ever since.

Prior to beginning graduate school, Laura worked at a psychiatric residential treatment facility for about 2 years. She loved working with kids who were having severe difficulties, similar to what many of the kids at Clark County Juvenile are experiencing. After taking a Juvenile Forensics course last year she became fascinated with the juvenile justice system. She welcomed the opportunity to learn more about juvenile justice while working with the population of kids she most enjoys, and to work under two professional psychologists who have great reputations as intern supervisors.

The main highlight for Laura is being a part of the Juvenile Recovery Court team. She loves working with such a dynamic group of people, and appreciates the oppor-

tunity to see how all the team members, despite their diverse roles, can work collaboratively with the common goal of helping the JRC kids be successful members of their communities.

Laura has two Jack Russell Terriers who keep her very busy. She enjoys making jewelry, gardening, backpacking, and listening to live music.

Joscelyn (Josie) Wilson attends Pacific University and is in her third year in the program. She has always enjoyed kids, even when she was a kid herself. As she moved through middle school and high school, she took every opportunity she could to work with kids. She worked as a peer helper in the special education classrooms at the schools she attended. When she was able to take a psychology class in high school, she knew from that point on that she would become a psychologist and work with kids.

Josie has worked in a few different residential treatment facilities and said she really enjoys the

challenge of working with adolescents who struggle behaviorally and emotionally. When she learned about Clark County's Juvenile Justice Center, she was excited about the idea of continuing to work with the population she enjoys most. She's interested in learning more about how psychology and the legal system can work together to reduce recidivism and improve the lives of the juveniles and their communities.

Josie has enjoyed getting to know everyone who works at Clark County JJC, and understanding how everyone works together to be efficient and effective. The atmosphere is very positive, and everyone seems to value the ideas and opinions of their co-workers, which she said has all been a refreshing experience for her.

Josie loves to be around people who make her laugh. She spends as much time as she can with her family, friends, and her dog. She enjoys watching and playing basketball, snowboarding, and listening to music. She also has a

newfound love for Zumba.

Tashina Keith is in her second year at George Fox University. She became interested in psychology as a way of helping people in ways they don't know how to help themselves. What interested her in doing her internship with the Clark County Juvenile Justice Center is having the ability to work with adolescents in a corrections setting. Tashina enjoys being able to give hope to kids who are in dismal situations.

She enjoys doing things with her friends and family, such as going to movies, shopping, golfing, dancing, pretty much anything as long as she's in good company.

Jodi Gann is also in her second year at George Fox University. She entered the program after a one year vacation after graduating with her bachelor degree in psychology from the same university.

Jodi wanted to become a psychologist because she wanted to gain the knowledge to hear people and help them out of their heartache, as she put it. She decided early in life that she wanted to pursue a career as a counselor, and when the door opened for her to follow that path, she went for it.

Jodi said that some of the emptiest times in her life were when she was an adolescent. She wanted to do her internship at the Clark County Juvenile Justice Center because of her own experience, as well as to understand the emotional needs related to problematic behavior, such as substance abuse and criminal activity, in teens.

Jodi said she enjoys working with the staff in detention. She enjoys their relaxed and teasing jive, which she said creates a welcoming and comfortable atmos-

phere. She also enjoyed discovering that Janet Bentley-Jones is responsible for some of her favorite artwork at the JJC.

For fun, Jodi likes to deliberate with her husband over the emotional importance of dramatic films over light comedy. She loves doing projects, so when she has down time, she enjoys creating something to do over a period of time, like making new curtains rather than buying them ready-made.

Our department is fortunate to have such a great group of interns working here. The young people with whom they meet benefit from their positive energy and fresh ideas, as does the staff.

JJC Staff Changes: Nicole Steinman Promoted to Probation Counselor



Nicole Steinman with Judge Daniel Stahnke at her swearing-in ceremony

On December 2, 2011, Nicole Steinman replaced Denise McCullough as one of two Probation Counselors in the Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC). Her promotion from Probation Associate to Probation Counselor became official when she was sworn in by Judge Daniel Stahnke on Dec. 6, 2011. Her proud family was present for the ceremony,

along with many of the staff from Clark County JJC, who were equally proud.

Nicole graduated from Western Washington University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Sociology degree. She became interested in working for Clark County JJC when she met Kellie Henderson, a Probation Counselor in Consolidated Juvenile Services (CJS). Kellie introduced her to Pat Escamilla, who was at that time the manager of CJS. Nicole was hired as a tracker and later as a mentor working with kids on their community services projects. She did that for 2 years and then became a Probation Associate in Connections, a specialized unit within JJC that serves youth who have mental health diagnoses. She worked in Connections for five years on the team that included Deja Hubbard, D'Alene White and Carol Murch. Since Deja and D'Alene job-shared, Nicole got a lot of Probation Counselor experience because she picked up the slack for whichever PO wasn't here at the time. Losing Nicole was a real blow to that team.

Nicole has always contributed a great deal to the whole department. One of her most significant contributions was toward the development of a program that advocates for victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). Nicole was instrumental in developing the process by which DMST victims are identified and offered services within our department. She was a significant part of an inter-agency collaboration that included the Clark County YWCA, SARC in Portland, Portland State University, and the Vancouver Police Department. Nicole facilitated a workshop in September 2010 for JJC staff to help them understand the

circumstances that lead young people into DMST, the experiences they face, and how we can best work with them to help them extricate themselves from that lifestyle. Nicole received a Protected Innocence award from Shared Hope International in December 2010 in recognition of the work she did to address the issue.

While working in Connections, Nicole was assigned one youth from the Juvenile Recovery Court who needed a little extra support, so she isn't totally brand new to JRC. She's worked with that youth for over a year.

There's been a lot for Nicole to learn during the transition. She has a much bigger team with which to work now, and she's learning about all the different positions: Judge Rulli, presiding judge; Rebekah Ward, prosecutor; Michael Borge, defense attorney; Brad Finegood, Therapeutic Specialty Courts Coordinator; Karen Lucas, Probation Counselor; psychologist Dr. Shirley Shen, psychology intern, Laura Wheaton from JJC; Tim Vice, treatment provider from Community Services Northwest; Miranda Thompson, Karyn Carterby, Marisa Schaff, and Carrie Martin, treatment providers from Lifeline Connections; and Anna Lookingbill, educational advocate from the Department of Community Services. They meet every Friday before court to discuss the cases.

If you do not make strong choices for yourself, you will reap the results of the weak choices of others.

Alan Cohen

Denise McCullough Moves to CJS



Denise McCullough

Denise McCullough worked in the Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) for five years, starting in 2006. After a year of planning, she worked a year and a half as a Probation Associate and 3 ½ years as a Probation Counselor. She really misses JRC and has fond memories of working there. She especially enjoyed the Pro-Social Activities the JRC staff did with the kids, like bowling, Silver Buckle, or the pumpkin patch. Her favorite part, though, was watching the kids graduate after working with them for some time, knowing the struggles they went through and the hard work they put into their recovery. She still plans to attend the graduations of the kids with whom she worked.

Even though she enjoyed working in the JRC, Denise was ready to learn something new. When a position opened up in Consolidated Juvenile Services (CJS), she applied for it. She supervises a split caseload. Eighteen of her cases are regular probation cases and ten are Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA) cases.

Supervising this particular caseload can be difficult at times. She has to work extra hard at not taking her work home with her. It's made her a stronger person, though, as she has learned how to

manage working with highly emotional cases without letting it adversely affect her attitude.

"If you have a positive attitude, it shows in the work you do," she explained. "If you have a bad attitude, it will be reflected in your work. Your job is what you make it."

Denise feels a strong sense of responsibility to keep the community safe. She knows it's important to focus on the offenders' need for treatment to help them learn the skills to keep from reoffending. Research has shown that sex offenders are more amenable to treatment when they're younger. She knows these kids have a better chance of changing when they have the structure and supervision necessary to avoid developing into dangerous adult offenders. She meets with the SSODA kids weekly and attends their group sessions, which is part of the structure that helps them successfully complete their treatment.

On the other hand, she doesn't want to treat sex offenders any differently than she would treat any other kids. She treats all of her clients with respect and dignity, focusing on their strengths and their positive qualities. This is especially helpful for kids who deal with the stigma of being labelled as sex offenders. She said it's similar to working with kids who have addictions. They develop reputations based on their charges, and it's hard for people to see beyond that to recognize their unique capabilities and personalities.

Denise has a very warm personality and a great sense of humor. She strives to keep probation meetings upbeat and positive. She contributes to creating a positive work environment for her co-workers as well as the kids on her caseload.

Denise graduated from Washington State University in Pullman with a Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice.

Her history with the department dates back to 1997 when she volunteered for the Community Accountability Board (CAB). In 1998 she worked on-call as a detention officer and was hired full-time the following year. She worked in detention for 8 years before transferring to probation. In 2006 she became the Aggression Replacement Training (ART) Coordinator, which she did for 1½ years.

Denise confessed to an addiction to going to the gym, where she lifts weights and does cardio. She would love to be an interior decorator, which is evidenced by the way she decorated her office. She loves being at home with her family, and described herself as a “homebody.”

New Detention Officer



Brandon Anderson in detention classroom

Brandon earned his Bachelor of Education at Washington State University in Pullman, majoring in History education. It was hard to find a job when he graduated due to the state of the economy and the general trend of downsizing in the school districts. One of his college roommates talked him into moving to Vancouver in 2009 from his hometown of Sumner, WA, saying there were more jobs available here. Once Brandon got here,

though, he found that Clark County was one of the most depressed areas in the state for employment. So he substituted in the classrooms in detention, among other places.

Brandon found out about Clark County Juvenile from a friend and mentor, who introduced him to Arlan McMullen and Clete Eastwood in the Restorative Community Service unit. Brandon started working as a lead mentor in November 2009. When he heard that detention was hiring on-call staff, he applied and was hired in March 2010. As an on-call worker, he was able to shadow other detention officers for 8 shifts before he started working on his own. He worked on-call for a year and a half before being hired full-time on Nov. 16, 2011. He completed the two-week Academy on February 3, 2012.

Brandon likes working directly with the kids. It's easy to teach honor students, he said, but it's more rewarding working with kids who need help the most. He has to wear a lot of hats in detention: the authority figure, counselor, sympathetic ear, the one who helps the best he can.

One of the most impactful learning experiences Brandon has had since working in detention is seeing how fast a situation can go from okay to drastic. While still an on-call worker, Brandon was on duty when a youth tried to harm himself. It was a humbling experience for Brandon to be told that he handled the situation well. He was able to stay calm, call for back-up, get the youth into an area where he would be safe, and create a “splash zone” so none of the other kids would be hurt. One of the things that came out of that experience was that staff now debrief when a tense incident occurs, whether it's a Code Red, restraining a youth or

a variety of other situations that occur in detention. Brandon credited John Shoemaker, Tom Pfeifer and Dawn Young for putting the debriefing practice in place.

Even doing intakes is a continual learning experience. Intake workers have to know whether a youth will be detained or released based on their charges. They have to be able to input the legal charges into the computer accurately. Brandon has learned a lot about the law as it pertains to juveniles. He has to know whether a youth who's intoxicated on drugs or alcohol needs to go to the hospital or can remain in detention, or whether a youth who has mental health issues needs to be referred to a mental health professional.

Brandon said he enjoys learning the different styles of his co-workers and learning how to work together as a team. Detention officers also learn a lot about the mindsets of the youth in detention. They have to be very creative to come up with consequences for various infractions. Trying to “make the punishment fit the crime” requires a high degree of ingenuity.

In his spare time, Brandon is a volunteer fire fighter. He also enjoys camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. He likes to spend time with his family. He likes to travel, though he hasn't had as many opportunities to do that as he would like. He's been to Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and up and down the West Coast. He's been to Hawaii, and would like to go again. He would love to visit western Europe: England, France, Italy and Germany. His father's side of the family is from Italy and his mother's side is from Germany.

Clearly Brandon brings a wealth of talent and experience to the job.

New Victim Impact Program (VIP) Coordinator



Jeff Olsen

Jeff Olsen has worked at the Clark County Juvenile Justice Center since October 1997. He worked at Naselle Youth Camp for 3 ½ years before that, so he brought some excellent experience in working with youth to the job.

Jeff started here as a Probation Counselor. He said he had some really tough cases. In 1998 he started doing Deferred Dispositions. Next he moved to Intake, which he described as the Melting Pot of the department. At that time they did a little of everything: assisted with the court process, handled misdemeanor cases, went over House Arrest agreements, worked with the attorneys, represented the Probation Counselors in court, assisted with transporting youth from one facility to another. Jeff expressed a lot of appreciation for Bethann Kopf, who had done the job by herself for 6 months without complaint. He was happy to be able to work with someone who he said was phenomenal at her job, to help her out and to learn from her in the process.

During the 11 years Jeff worked in Intake, the job developed a lot. The intake workers were given all the Deferred Dispositions when that started in 1998. There's a lot more paperwork involved, too.

After Intake, Jeff took on a Specialized Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA) caseload, which he did for 2 years.

Jeff was selected as the new Victim Impact Program (VIP) Coordinator in December 2011.

"It's exciting," Jeff said of his new role. "I feel like Columbus. It's a new world for me." Moving to VIP involved transitioning from being primarily offender focused to being more focused on the victims. "With the experiences I've had working in a juvenile facility and for Juvenile Court, it felt like a natural transition for me. Helping our community, whether it's helping a kid get a job or seeing a kid get his GED, or giving a victim the confidence that we're here to help them, those are rewarding experiences."

"They're big shoes to fill," he added, in reference to his predecessors, Jim Jacks, Eric Gilman, David Benedicktus, and most recently Christine Simonsmeier, who transitioned into managing the Consolidated Juvenile Services (CJS) unit. Jeff also speaks highly of the staff people who work in VIP, Julie Mauer, Nichole Peppers and LaQuinta Daniels. "The quality of the people who work here is second to none."

He said Clark County JJC is a great place to work. "I love the work, but it's made great because of the people. The experiences I've had here are relational. It's like a family. What really solidified that feeling was the support I got here when my son, Grant, got sick."

Grant was diagnosed with leukemia four years ago when he was 6 ½. "When people are down and hurting, people really step up to the plate. That's what makes it enjoyable to come to work every

day." The JJC staff organized a head shaving ceremony for Grant so he wouldn't feel alone when he had to have his hair shaved. Several staff members, including women, had their heads shaved to show their support for Grant and his family. "He was really sick that day, but he made it to the event and it was a really cool experience."

Now Grant is 10 ½. He's been off chemo since last April, which was a milestone in his recovery. This April will be another milestone. "If you can make it a year without chemo, your chances of survival are very good," Jeff explained. "He's considered in remission. If after 5 years there's no evidence of leukemia, he's considered cured."

Jeff's wife, Karen, put together a DVD documenting Grant's progress in treatment. She shared it with our staff in the same room in which the head-shaving event took place the year before. It was a heart-warming experience to be able to celebrate Grant's remission in such a special way.

The experience with his son's illness strengthened Jeff's faith. "It honed in what's really important in life. It's not my house, my car, or anything I own. It's knowing that no matter what happened to Grant, I'm going to see him again."

What impressed our staff most about Jeff is that, in the midst of dealing with Grant's illness, he took the time to organize Office Olympics games in December 2010. "We need more fun around here," he explained. He put together an elaborate miniature golf course that involved putting golf balls down several hallways, including down a curved stairwell; a ping pong tournament; a

cribbage tournament, and other activities. He announced the winners in each category at the January All Staff meeting, awarding prizes to the champions. That's the kind of person Jeff is. Even in the midst of his own struggles, he still puts his energy into adding joy to his co-workers lives.

So what does Jeff do for fun? He's obviously a family man. He loves spending time with Karen and their sons, Grant and Wyatt.

He's also an avid tennis player. He used to play for the US Tennis Association. He and Ryan Bjornsgaard, a Probation Counselor in the CJS unit, made it to the finals this past year. Jeff said they would have won the tournament if Ryan hadn't blown out his knee during the game. Jeff used to be a basketball ref and a soccer coach. Even after Grant quit the soccer team, Jeff coached them for another year, and was gratified by the marked improvement they made during the years he worked with them.

Jeff is a self-professed Disneyland fanatic and a Maui fanatic. He obviously knows how to enjoy life, and he shares his enthusiasm with everyone he meets.

Jackie Hull Appointed Statewide ART Consultant



Jackie Hull

In July 2011 Jackie Hull was selected to serve as one of five

WSART (Washington State Aggression Replacement Training) consultants.

"It's pretty rewarding," she said. "You have to have a Master's level certification to be a consultant." At 26, she's proud of the fact that she's the youngest consultant in the state.

As a consultant, Jackie travels around Washington to observe, critique and support ART programs in other jurisdictions. When visiting other programs, she usually tours their juvenile facilities and picks up good ideas to share with our staff when she returns. Meeting the directors of the other departments is really cool.

Seeing how other counties conduct their ART classes generates improvements in our local program. One program gave her worksheets to use with her students. Beyond ART, she's learned about videos that other programs show their kids, on topics such as DUIs and STDs.

She sees a lot of differences between the larger programs like ours and the smaller, rural programs. In the small towns, the staff have fewer groups per year. They have to transport the kids to and from class because they don't have public transit systems like we have here.

Part of being a consultant involves teaching ART to people who wish to become facilitators. She participates in conference calls twice a month and Quality Assurance meetings twice a year for the benefit of ART instructors all over the state.

Her consulting role generates income for our local program. The state pays the county more per hour than what Jackie gets paid, which allows us to spend more on the local ART program.

This winter was the first time Clark County JJC offered 3 ART classes at once. They have the two

regular afternoon classes at 4:00 and 5:30, and they added an ART class for the youth in the GED/GAP program at 12:30. At the end of the 10-week program, we'll have 33 youth and 6 parents graduating. That's a record for our county.

Clark County JJC is the only program in the state that also offers a parent ART program so parents can find out what their kids are learning in the class. Since starting the parent ART two years ago, Jackie has noticed that the kids whose parents are involved tend to do better in the youth ART classes.

The next issue of the JJC Connector will include an article about the Parent ART.

Helpful Websites:

Love and Logic offers free weekly parenting tips on their *Insider's Club*. The link to subscribe is in the upper right corner of their home page. From a recent tip:

[T]he "Love and Logic" approach should always look like the following:

- **A loving attitude toward the young person.** A key principle of the Love and Logic approach is that we *preserve the dignity* - of the child AND the adult. Does yelling and threatening preserve kids' dignity? How about ours?

- **Shared thinking and control.** Adults using Love and Logic techniques resist the urge to come up with all the answers and solve all the problems. Instead, they give kids the gift of thinking about and solving problems. They ask lots of questions and give lots of choices so kids stay in on the action.

- **Empathy before consequences and bad news.**

We are sad for kids and we hurt for them when they struggle. Our sadness (instead of our anger and frustration) helps them own problems and learn from the consequences. None of this works without empathy.

- **Relationships are paramount.**

If we are not preserving or enhancing relationships, we are not really using Love and Logic techniques.

The following poem was written by a mother who, in spite of life's challenges, has a wonderful and positively hopeful view of life. You may want to read it slowly and attempt to truly absorb its meaning.

Pat Lindemaier, Family Assistance Specialist

Forever by your side

By Autumn B.

Through all your walks in life.
All your mile stones you've traveled.
Your hurdles you've jumped.
Your journey set landing.
Such a destiny.
Ahh... Peace 'lil one. Have travelled to me.
Master piece of beauty, you have molded me.
Tranquility with such fine devotion.
Promises, destiny, and shared hopes. With dreams so up lifting.
You've answered my prayers.
Loyal to all, courage from many.
Folks young and small.
From fellow ancestors to our great ones.
To all and whom; yes indeed.
Pure and genuine as clear as the river water flowing to the sea.
Captured, cleansed through the ever glades.
Lifting in rejoice, soaring free like an eagle, guided together as a flock.
Endless company.
Such a glaze of light. Sealahwets, what a fine reflection.
Driven by determination. Bound by such seed.
Loom finest of 'em. Poured on from you to me.

